

Reds among Protestant clergymen

"Reds and Our Churches" in the July *American Mercury*, charging that "the largest single group supporting the Communist apparatus in the United States today is composed of Protestant clergymen," is one of those semi-sensational writings which cause a commotion quite disproportionate to their content. The author is J. B. Matthews, reformed Socialist and fellow-traveler who served as research director for the House Un-American Activities Committee from 1938 to 1945. On June 22 Senator McCarthy, apparently without the formal approval of his colleagues (four of whom now disapprove), had appointed Mr. Matthews executive director of the staff of his Senate Investigations subcommittee. The article is hardly an "attack" on the Protestant clergy, as many have complained. For example, Mr. Matthews contends that over the past 17 years the Communist party has "enlisted the support of" at least 7,000 Protestant clergymen as "party members, fellow-travelers, espionage agents [he gives no evidence of this], party-line adherents and unwitting dupes." The 1950 U. S. census reported 238,360 Protestant clergymen. Over a period of 17 years the personnel would change. So even at a guess of 7,000, the percentage is not very high. Of course, a sizable number *has* lent at least nominal support to Communist causes, e.g., the phony CP "peace" campaign. Protestant churches, allowing a maximum of "freedom of thought," cannot easily discipline clergymen who affiliate with Red fronts. Relatively few, one supposes, are really Communists. Since there is a trend among Protestants towards "neo-orthodoxy," no doubt fewer will succumb to such deception in the future.

Religious connotation of "bleeding hearts"

A popular, yet dangerous habit into which too many people today have fallen is to exploit a slogan to sum up a movement, to stigmatize opposition, to arouse the emotions quickly and unthinkingly. A catch-phrase is persuasive, takes you prisoner. That is its charm—and its danger. "Bleeding hearts" is such a current label, sneeringly applied to those who work publicly and strenuously to help the poor and dispossessed of other lands, to relieve the oppressed of our own country, to aid "foreigners" who need to find a new homeland. And yet for a Christian to be called a "bleeding heart" should be a glorious compliment, for all of us follow a wounded Christ whose Sacred Heart bled for men. Love, sympathy, pity—real charity—are the mark of Christ and of those who bear His name. If our hearts bleed for the mistreated members of Christ, then we are worthy of the name of Christian. On the last day we shall hear the welcoming words of Christ telling us that what we did for thirsty, hungry and homeless men we did for Him. The truest sign of love for Christ is an effective love for our neighbor; and every man left wounded by the roadside is our neighbor. It is not the thoughtless levite or the mere conforming Christian who is a true follower of Christ,

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but he whose heart, beating in harmony with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, bleeds for His sick and poor, wherever they are. The Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us remember, was a bleeding heart.

Rehabilitate and employ the disabled

In their new pamphlet, *Doing Something for the Disabled* (Public Affairs Committee, 30 East 38th St., New York 16. 25¢), Mary E. Switzer, director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and Howard A. Rusk, M.D., chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine at the New York University College of Medicine, make a graphic story of the new approach to an old problem. It is no longer a question of merely making sure that the lame and the halt and the blind have food, shelter, clothes and special care. Doctors are beginning to realize that they have not completely restored an injured person to health until they have trained him to perform some normal function in society. A man who has lost his legs can no longer be a steeplejack—but he might be very efficient at repairing radios. Apart from its immense value as a work of charity in restoring hope and a sense of usefulness to thousands of cripples, the work of rehabilitation experts like Dr. Rusk makes a major contribution to the community. One survey shows that 8,000 injured persons, who had been receiving public assistance at a cost of about \$5.7 million per year, themselves earned an estimated \$14 million after vocational rehabilitation. What it cost to rehabilitate them (\$4 million) was less than three-fourths the cost of maintaining them a single year on a welfare basis. As productive members of their communities, they will pay an estimated million dollars in Federal income taxes alone. Funds spent on rehabilitation are obviously a sound social investment.

Building the bases of peace

The debate over appropriations for the Mutual Security Agency brought notice from such old-time supporters as Sens. Walter F. George (Dem., Ga.), Mike Mansfield (Dem., Mont.), Guy M. Gillette (Dem., Iowa) that they are through with easy, large-scale foreign-aid programs. Some argued that MSA is now beginning to backfire, that it is breeding a chronic dependence of Europe on the U. S. economy

and building up resentment rather than good-will. Senator Gillette based his opposition on a point that deserves careful consideration. While conceding that preparedness is vital, he complains bitterly about an overemphasis on the military in our present foreign policy at the expense of the original social aims of rehabilitation and technical assistance looking toward long-range social stability and peace. Certainly a well-conceived policy for world peace must keep an eye on the Point Four ideal. Neither the demands of social charity (and they are demands) nor good foreign relations will allow us to shrivel up this kind of aid. Various American agencies, both private and public, as well as the UN and the British Commonwealth's Colombo plan are carrying on limited programs of technical assistance to underdeveloped nations. A new publication, *Doorway to the 20th Century* (bimonthly newsheet, 816 21st St., N. W. Washington 6, D.C., \$5 per yr.) should help keep its readers informed, through brief reports, on the continuing progress of programs of assistance and investment in the less-developed countries.

False economy: axing GI information program

The Defense Department has put up an exceptionally strong fight to save its Armed Forces Information School from the economy axe. When the House passed the Defense Appropriations Bill on July 2, it made no provision for continuation of this program, which is headquartered at Fort Slocum, near New York. As of present writing there is still a chance that the Senate may restore the small amount involved (less than \$1.5 million). We heartily hope it rescues the information program. The Armed Forces Information School trains officers and enlisted men of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps to carry on troop information and education. It also trains public-information officers. The school has been criticized by Congressmen for "not doing its job" and for being located on a site expensive to operate. We are in no position to know whether the school has up to now been run efficiently and economically. Both Dr. John A. Hannah, Assistant Secretary of Defense in charge of manpower and personnel (former president of Michigan State College) and Andrew H. Berding, Defense Department Director

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of Information, are said to concede the need for some changes. At the same time, they are reported as defending the basic need of training men for this purpose. The record supports them. Experience has taught us that the morale of our GI's at home and overseas can seriously slump if the services leave them in the dark about why they are fighting, or training to fight, or why they are kept in uniform when the fighting seems to be over. Experience has also revealed that this work needs men specially trained to answer such questions persuasively.

Ambassador John L. Lewis?

According to Victor Riesel, Post-Hall syndicated columnist, we may soon be referring to John L. Lewis as Mr. Ambassador. On returning from his recent trip abroad, it seems Secretary Dulles reported to the President that U. S. prestige among European workers had slipped badly, and that the loss of working-class support had gravely weakened the political position of our friends. This was true not only in France, but in Italy, West Germany and other countries as well. Secretary Dulles discovered something else. He found that the one American labor leader capable of getting our story across to foreign workers was John L. Lewis. Mr. Dulles' surprising report was corroborated from other sources. His brother, Allan, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, agreed that our stock was indeed low among foreign workers, and that the man best fitted to raise it was Mr. Lewis. His name was magic in worker circles everywhere. Undersecretary of State Walter Bedell Smith gave similar testimony. How far plans have gone to draft Mr. Lewis is not clear, but the President's aides are said to be considering a twofold possibility. One is to make the mine leader a member of the U. S. delegation to the UN. The other is to give him the status of personal representative of the President with the rank of Ambassador and send him on a world-wide junket. Even those who might think Mr. Lewis miscast in either role must agree that we still have a big propaganda job to do among workers everywhere.

The law and commie-dominated unions

One good reason for rejoicing over the early adjournment of Congress is that this will forestall precipitate action on the Butler bill. That bill, sponsored by Sen. John Marshall Butler (Md.), aims at establishing a new Federal policy toward Communist-dominated unions. Admittedly, a new policy is needed, but there are grave doubts that the Butler bill is the answer the country is looking for. Under Taft-Hartley, the National Labor Relations Board is required to certify any union as a bargaining agent which has won a representation election and whose officials have taken the prescribed non-Communist oaths. This certification is automatic, even though NLRB may strongly suspect that, despite the non-Communist affidavits, the union is Communist-dominated. The Butler bill provides that the Subversive Activities Control Board

would rule. As soon as the bill is filed, it will be suspended by the Board, which is virtually fine. Appeal to the Supreme Court before the bill is passed. This provides an innocent opportunity for the unions.

Senator Gillette

Last January a resolution was introduced in the Senate immediately after the State Department reported that the automo-

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would rule on all charges of Communist-domination. As soon as a complaint of Communist-domination has been filed against a union, its bargaining rights would be suspended. They would remain suspended until the Board handed down its verdict. Should it eventually find that the charge is justified, the union may appeal to the courts. All during the time the case is before the courts, the union would remain suspended. This procedure reverses the principle that a man is innocent until proved guilty. It affords endless opportunity for irresponsibles to bedevil industrial relations by bringing groundless charges of communism against unions.

Senator Gillette on UN charter revision

Last January Sen. Guy Gillette of Iowa introduced a resolution urging the United States to propose an immediate conference to revise the UN Charter. The State Department called his proposal premature. Noting that the question of Charter revision would come up automatically in the 1955 Assembly, State added:

The development of an official United States position toward the question of Charter review will require very careful and detailed preparation within the Government, including official studies, advice from Members of the Congress, and private discussions with other Governments. And there should also be, in the judgment of the Department, full opportunity for the public to inform itself on the problems involved and to express its views.

The next two years should be used "to assure that there will have been adequate consideration of this matter on the part of the American Government and people." Taking the Department at its word, Senator Gillette on June 30 introduced Senate Resolution 126, providing for a Charter Revision Committee made up of all or part of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, plus two other Senators to be designated by the President. A report is called for by Jan. 31, 1955. The Senate should act on this resolution during the current session. It would seem desirable, however, to set up a joint congressional committee. Members of the House were included in the U. S. delegation at San Francisco and in the yearly delegation to the UN. Moreover, the 1954 election campaign will give all Congressmen a chance to exchange views on Charter revision with their constituents.

Toward victory in Indo-China?

Seven years of ineffectual fighting in Indo-China have proved that the war against Ho Chi Minh's Communist rebels cannot be won either with or without the French. It cannot be won with them, because the three Associated States of Indo-China are dissatisfied with their semi-colonial status within the French Union, a fact which has alienated the Indo-Chinese from what is really a struggle in their own interests. It cannot be won without the French, because French withdrawal would leave Indo-China at the

mercy of Ho Chi Minh's renegades and expose all of Southeast Asia to a Communist military coup. On July 3 the new French Cabinet, in one of its first official acts, addressed itself to the solution of the seven-year-old dilemma. By promising to "complete the independence and sovereignty" of the three Associated States (Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia), it sought to enlist greater Indo-Chinese cooperation in the anti-Communist war. What the French Government meant by "independence and sovereignty," however, it left somewhat vague. The proposed negotiations with the Indo-Chinese will no doubt produce a clearer statement. In the meantime we can only reiterate what the French must do if they want to wind up the Indo-Chinese war with a victory over the Communists. They must make a firm declaration that Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia will receive full independence in the French Union—including the right to leave the Union if they so wish—as soon as the fighting ends. Responsible Indo-Chinese leaders have indicated that they will accept nothing less.

A solution to the Kashmir problem

Ever since the 1947 partition of British India, Kashmir has been a veritable Asiatic powder keg. Both India and Pakistan have claimed the former princely state which like a wedge cuts into their northern borders. Unable to agree on terms for a plebiscite, the countries might today have been at war had not a UN-imposed cease-fire put an end to the spontaneous shooting which broke out in 1948. Now, after six years of wrangling, the Indian and Pakistani Governments are reportedly close to a compromise. In lieu of a plebiscite, which could have unhappy results because of the same Hindu-Moslem differences in Kashmir which forced the separation of India and Pakistan, the compromise envisages a division of the disputed territory. Pakistan would get the northern and western areas now held by her troops. This part comprises one-fourth of Kashmir and is almost 100-per-cent Moslem. India would incorporate predominantly Hindu Jammu Province to the east and sparsely settled Ladakh bordering on Communist China. The Vale of Kashmir would be an independent area which India and Pakistan would agree to defend. This solution is not perfect. It makes the future status of the Kashmiris dependent on an arbitrary decision not their own. Nevertheless, any agreement which has a reasonable chance of success is preferable to the tense situation which has existed since 1947. For one thing, settling the Kashmir problem will enable India to channel a large portion of the military expenditures involved in defending her "rights" in Kashmir into a more necessary enterprise—growing food for her underfed millions.

Britain's health plan: 1948-1953

Five years after its inception in July, 1948, Britain's National Health Service shows few signs of collapse. All shades of political opinion concede that in some

form or other the national health plan will endure as a permanent part of Britain's social-welfare services. Under the present Government-run plan, everyone in the country, irrespective of means, age or sex, gets complete medical and dental care, with the Treasury paying most of the bills. For the 49 million patients the cost runs to \$1.12 billion annually, or about \$22.40 per person. Patients pay 5.8 per cent of the total outlay for the service. In the United States, opinion about the British scheme, commonly called "socialized medicine," has been generally unfavorable. Dr. Paul B. Magnuson, chairman of the Truman Presidential Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation, in a featured interview in *U. S. News & World Report* for July 3 reports his observations during two months he spent last summer looking at Britain's medical set-up. He found the specialists getting rich, the general practitioners tangled up in red tape and patients with ordinary ills getting poor care. To a considerable extent all this was true before 1948, too. Most American doctors think the British system a bad one. A brighter picture is drawn by American newsmen in England. In a July 5 *New York Times Magazine* article, Clifton Daniel goes the rounds with an English doctor whose opinion of the service was "on balance, more favorable than unfavorable." A recent AP dispatch notes that in spite of a consciousness of some serious failings, the program "as of today, has overwhelming approval."

AMERICA'S mailing list

For some years past, a number of mailing-list houses have sought the use of the names and addresses of the AMERICA subscribers. The America Press has consistently refused to purvey these names to list houses, lest subscribers be annoyed by receiving through the mail solicitations for all sorts of "causes," advertising matter for religious goods and similar "special offers." Despite these refusals and the care taken to protect our records, a certain person in the New York area is currently claiming possession of what he says are the official lists of present and former AMERICA subscribers. We are bringing the matter to the attention of our readers for a twofold purpose. First, we wish to assure our subscribers that the America Press has not authorized the use of its records by any mailing-list house. The person himself does not claim to have the authorization of the America Press nor does he give any satisfactory explanation of the means by which these purported lists came into his possession. Through its attorney and through the National Council of Mailing List Brokers, AMERICA is seeking to protect the privacy of its mailing lists. Second, we ask that if readers should receive any mail advertisements addressed in exactly the same form as their AMERICA wrappers, they forward such material to: The Business Manager, America Press, 70 E. 45th St., New York 17, N. Y. The merchandising firms which might be interested in the AMERICA list, once informed by us of the circumstances, would (we feel sure) refrain from using it.

CONGRESS WORKS OVERTIME

Though the weather was hot and humid, Congressmen were up to their ears in work last week striving to beat a July 31 deadline. When it became painfully apparent several weeks ago that much of President Eisenhower's program could not possibly be passed during this session, congressional leaders, with the blessing of the White House, decided to process the necessary appropriation bills, take care of a small packet of "must" measures and then adjourn by the end of July. Even this modest schedule called for devotion beyond the ordinary call of duty.

The busiest places were the committee rooms, where Senate and House conferees labored to reconcile differences in the bills approved by their respective chambers. All the regular appropriation bills save one were in this category, but no one anticipated much difficulty in reconciling divergencies. Actually, unlike the practice in former years, the Senate made only small changes in the money bills passed by the House.

The only exception to this was the appropriation for foreign aid, which was cut to the bone in the House and saddled with an amendment that would hamstring the President in his dealings with our European allies. The House cut a half-billion from the President's request for \$5.4 billion, and then made one billion of the allotment for Western Europe contingent on its approval of the European Defense Treaty. The Senate voted \$5.3 billion and left the President free to grant or withhold the billion to Western Europe as he saw fit.

More serious differences existed on other measures. Both House and Senate voted to give the submerged lands beyond the three-mile limit off our coasts to the Federal Government, but the Senate bill stipulates that the income from these lands—in the shape of oil and other royalties—shall be devoted to aiding education. With this provision the House conferees were loath to go along.

There was an equally sharp split over the composition of the U. S. Tariff Commission. The House, in extending the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, made provision for changing the bipartisan character of the commission. As a concession to high-tariff Republicans, the bill increased the commission's membership to seven, thus ensuring a 4-to-3 GOP majority. The Senate, urged on by its large Democratic minority, rejected this change and voted a simple one-year extension of the law "as is." Advocates of "trade not aid" are hoping that the Senate conferees will be able to sell their viewpoint to their opposite numbers in the House.

Besides these measures, the GOP leadership was determined to pass two bills strongly pushed by the White House. One was the bill extending the excess-profits tax for six months. The other was a bill admitting to this country 240,000 refugees from political and economic persecution abroad. Both bills were tests of the President's leadership.

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WASHINGTON FRONT

The first half-year of Dwight D. Eisenhower's Administration is nearing an end. By now the fact that must be plain to the President himself and his top men is that the task of running these United States is tougher and bigger than they ever thought it would be. On almost on all the major issues they have had to face—Korea, budget and taxes, White House-Congress relations—the Republicans have found life in Washington very real and very earnest. The simplicities of back-seat driving are no longer for them.

Possible political impressions to the contrary, Mr. Eisenhower never believed the Korean business was a soft touch, and it probably has been every bit as tough as he expected. George Humphrey at Treasury has an almost overwhelming problem of finance and debt. John Foster Dulles has been beset both in Congress and abroad. Charles E. Wilson has his problems with the military; Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson battles falling farm prices and a drought; Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield is trying to wipe out a half-billion postal deficit and still improve service. All of them have run head-on into the political complexities of every available alternative.

The promises of bold and imaginative performance came easily before last election day. Yet many weeks before Mr. Eisenhower came here to be inaugurated January 20 he knew the terrific prospect ahead. He had taken a look in Korea, and his advance staff men in Washington had reported back on their first findings, which forewarned of trouble ahead.

Consider what the President has faced in fiscal affairs. The Truman Administration estimated that the deficit for the 1953 fiscal year just ended would be nearly \$6 billion; actually it turned out to be \$9 billion. The Truman estimate of the deficit for the new 1954 fiscal year which began this July 1 was nearly \$10 billion. The Republicans have slashed mightily on appropriations to ease the drain on the Treasury, but they can't do anything about \$41 billion appropriated in other years to be spent in the next twelve months. This is money already committed for ships and planes which cannot be chopped off at any half-way point. Though economies being effected are severe, no one sees how a deficit of several billion can be avoided. Tax revenues actually have been falling below estimates. The question now is whether the national debt, which stands at \$266 billion, can be held under the present \$275-billion limit.

The size of the problem is apparent. In the face of this, Ways and Means Chairman Daniel Reed's tax-cut talk is bull-headed nonsense. The Republicans will be lucky if they can get national finance on an even keel a year from now. Meanwhile many other problems wait.

CHARLES LUCEY.

UNDERSCORINGS

The Catholic Business Education Association has decided to discontinue its Catholic Views Testing Program (AM. 10/4/52, pp. 10-11; 6/27/53, p. 333). Under this program, a series of tests was given between 1951 and 1953 designed to stimulate Catholic reading among college students and to evaluate their knowledge and judgment of Catholic issues. The dropping of the program was dictated by "considerations of time, money, distance and the demands placed upon participating schools," but the CBEA feels that its experiment was a success if it stimulated the individual administrator or teacher to carry on a similar program in his own school or class.

► U. S. students visiting Europe this summer are invited to visit the International Summer School to be held Aug. 18-26 at Goodham, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, under the auspices of the Union of Catholic Students of Great Britain. The theme of the sessions is "Marriage." Goodham is only three miles from Prestwick Airport, Scottish terminal for trans-Atlantic flights. Students who cannot stay for the full sessions will be welcome on a short visit. Address: The Institute for University Studies Abroad, 1346 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C.

► The 8th national convention of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, meeting in New York July 4-5, went on record as 1) opposing the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act, 2) urging passage of the Watkins bill to allow 240,000 emigrants to enter this country quota-free during the next two years, 3) endorsing "the idea of a federal world government with adequate, albeit limited, powers to suppress aggression and further social justice for all the peoples of God's world."

► A Canadian Catholic Social Conference will be held at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N. S., Aug. 2-4. This is the first annual conference of the English-speaking section of the Semaines Sociales du Canada. The theme of the meeting will be "The Parish as a Basic Cell of Society" . . . The 10th congress of the National Federation of Catholic College Students will meet Aug. 25-30 in Cincinnati . . . The National Newman Club Federation will hold its convention Sept. 2-6 at the University of Minnesota.

► Sons and successors of Sweden's great social crusaders seem to have lost the motivating force that inspired their fathers, according to Anna L. Elgstrom, discussing "Catholicism in Sweden" in *St. Ansgar's Bulletin* for 1953. Yet she finds spiritual hope in the restless attitude of Sweden's young intellectuals. Single copies of this informative and attractive annual may be obtained gratis from St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League, 40 West 13th St., New York 11, N. Y.

C. K.

The economics of PPF

Rarely does the Planned Parenthood Federation reveal what passes for economic reasoning among its adherents. Its national director, ecologist William Vogt, however, has recently raised the curtain. In a letter to the *New York Herald Tribune* for July 5 he berated business analysts who read into our rising birth rate a bright U. S. economic future. Within the first quarter of this year, 971,000 babies were born in the United States, 29,000 more than in the same period last year. The 1953 total should reach an all-time high of 4 million births. Businessmen have already earmarked them as new consumers.

Mr. Vogt charges that such optimism rests on the assumption that a high birth rate is *per se* an economic boon. Such reasoning, he argues, stems from an "uncritical equating of prosperity and mere numbers." (In passing, we might observe that if anyone is guilty of this error, it is Planned Parenthood itself. Even in the more sophisticated guise of "optimum population" analysis, Neo-Malthusianism still argues in the static terms of a fixed product to be divided among given numbers of people.)

The head of PPF scores the assumption on two counts. First, the new crop of little consumers means only a shift in consumption patterns—not an increase in consumption itself. "Studies made in the United States, Sweden and England," he says, "have all confirmed what common sense tells us, that as the number of children rises for a family . . . the proportion of income spent for food goes up, but expenditures for household operations, furnishings, equipment, transportation and gifts go down." Since it is the poorest who have the most babies, he regards "cheery optimism about generations of future consumers" as fatuous.

All this is not very convincing. Even assuming that all the 971,000 babies are born into families which already have children (which is not true) and that only a shift, not an increase, in consumption from durables to food takes place, everyone should at least admit that this would be a partial solution to our growing problem of huge farm surpluses.

Actually, the business world is quite correct in its "rosy view" of the babies as potential markets. Increased population has always increased the market for new tools and machines with which to work. These will in turn require capital development. Moreover, this year's babies will some day need homes of their own. Even now parents need larger dwellings for their expanded families. Besides, babies don't live by food alone: they need bottles, garments, baby-carriages, toys and (later on) shoes, scooters, bicycles, comics, books and a host of services—medical, dental, educational, recreational. As time goes on they need many durables.

Where will the little ones get the purchasing power to satisfy all these needs, asks Mr. Vogt. They will get it from the increase of some 3.4 per cent in income

EDITORIALS

which the American economy produces every year, while the population is increasing at a slower rate, usually under 1953's high of 1.73 per cent.

Census figures do not bear out Mr. Vogt's allegation that the poorest people have most of the children in this country. Nor does U. S. economic history bear out his pessimism, since we have experienced a steady high per-capita increase in income as our population increased. So on all these counts, our high birth rate promises to stimulate economic prosperity.

The fact of the matter is that Planned Parenthooders lack confidence in America. Of all the "fears" we hear so much about, PPF's are the most insidious.

Alternatives in Korea

As of last week, the impasse between Syngman Rhee and U. S. Presidential Envoy Walter S. Robertson could not drag on much longer. Unless the South Korean President comes to terms, the United States will be forced to make one of three decisions. Either we shall have to underwrite Dr. Rhee's determination to unify Korea at the expense of far more casualties than we have already suffered, or conclude a separate armistice, withdraw and leave South Korea to its own devices, or sign a truce and force the recalcitrant Dr. Rhee to abide by it. We might even delay a while to require Red China's signature to the truce.

By July 8 the Chinese Communists announced that they would accept Gen. Mark Clark's June 28 proposal to go ahead with preparations for a cease-fire despite Syngman Rhee's threat to wreck the agreement. The enemy really seemed to want a truce, since they dropped, as a condition for signing, their demand for the recovery of the 27,000 North Korean PW's whom Dr. Rhee had released. That left the South Korean President as the one ostensible stumbling block.

Quite obviously the UN Command is not considering Dr. Rhee's heart's desire—an advance to the Yalu—as an alternative to the Rhee-Robertson stalemate. There are sound reasons for not taking it seriously. The Department of Defense announced on July 7 that American casualties, after three years of defending South Korea, had mounted to 140,000. The number might well be doubled if we joined the ROK Army in an effort, uncertain of success, to clear North Korea of the enemy. As Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger remarked in the July 6 *Newsweek*:

As one who commanded the Eighth Army for four years, I do not believe that a victory could be secured in North Korea without prohibitive

losses . . . There would be chance of bloody defeat.

Even granted a successful advance, who will say that the war would thereby be terminated? The Chinese could stand and fight at the frontier for years. Meanwhile we would have Dr. Rhee to contend with.

Aside from his desire to unify Korea, Syngman Rhee's opposition to an armistice is reportedly based on his estimate of the importance of a unified Korea to the over-all Far Eastern situation. He is confident that an armistice on the basis of the existing *status quo* would encourage further Communist ventures, if not against his own country, then elsewhere in the Far East. It is very hard to see how a unified Korea would automatically settle the Indo-Chinese problem, for example. In any case, that the United Nations, the only hope of Asia, should be forced to accept Dr. Rhee's estimate of the best means of protecting it, is rather preposterous.

Concluding a separate truce and withdrawing from Korea would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow. Nevertheless, what better alternative is there in the dilemma in which we now find ourselves, unless we turn our guns on the ROK Army to force its submission to the truce terms?

Should we withdraw from Korea—a dangerous but perhaps not impossible operation—we would have repelled the Red aggression, punished the enemy to a point where he seems anxious to call it quits, prevented further excursions into Southeast Asia and given Japan time to get back on its feet as an ally. We have also gained time to accelerate the U. S. and European defense programs. We have kept all our allies, whereas Russia is having serious trouble in its empire. These are rather imposing accomplishments.

Dr. Rhee seems convinced that he can now use a clever power play to force the UN to do his bidding. Our answer must be to find some way of showing him that local patriots cannot ask the UN to rescue their peoples and then dictate the terms on which a successful intervention is to be concluded.

Soviet empire in peril?

To conclude, on the basis of recent events in Eastern Europe, that the Soviet empire is on the verge of "breaking up" would be to go beyond the available evidence. Before the iron grasp of Moscow on the satellites is shaken off, one of two things would be necessary. Either the Communist party must break up into independent national sectors, or the population as a whole, especially the workers and farmers, must throw off their yoke through violent revolution. We have not yet witnessed any signs of imminent Titoism, though the same was true of Tito's sudden break in 1948. Violent as have been some of the recent manifestations of discontent in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, these do not seem to have in them the makings of any serious direct threat to Moscow's domination of the captive countries.

But "crackup" or not, the concessions that the several satellite countries have been forced to make since as far back as the Czech riots following the currency devaluation of May 30 indicate that the breaking point of endurance has been reached by the sorely overworked and exploited farmers and workers. The signs now tend to indicate that a more moderate policy will be followed by the Communist regimes. The confessions of error and reversals on the part of these Governments in recent weeks offer sure signs of a let-up in the feverish industrialization and collectivization that have marked their policies since the war.

A policy of moderation has been as good as announced in Hungary, where on July 4 Premier Matyas Rakosi made way for Imre Nagy, son of a farmer. He candidly admitted that it was foolish for a country such as Hungary to attempt to industrialize itself at the expense of agriculture. Nagy also admitted that the country's economy was based, even now, upon the individual farm. That means that the tempo of collectivization will be slowed, if not stopped. He concluded his first address by saying that the events in Berlin were a lesson for Hungary and that other "peoples democracies" would follow Hungary's example. Nagy even announced a relaxation of the Government's severity toward religion, declaring that the regime stands for the principle of tolerance. What his rather cryptic remarks on this subject mean will be soon known, no doubt. There are reports that Cardinal Mindszenty will be allowed to live in a sort of "house arrest" similar to the present situation of Cardinal Stepinac in Yugoslavia.

The new moderate line that seems in the making in the captive countries—whose origin can be variously attributed to the riots, to a serious economic crisis or to a new outlook in the Kremlin, or to all three together—does not necessarily imply an abandonment of Communist control or of Communist objectives. In Hungary, for instance, Rakosi is no longer Premier but he is still head man in the nine-member Politburo and the top man in the three-man party secretariat. It should not be forgotten that the New Economic Policy (NEP) adopted by Lenin in 1921 at a time of similar crisis was a temporary expedient that did not imply any surrender of ultimate objectives. The kulaks later paid dearly for the concessions they received under NEP. Nor was NEP a sign of any "crackup" of the Soviet regime. On the contrary, the "new policy" enabled it to survive and wax strong.

Rather than speak of the "break up" of the Soviet empire, it might be more practical to give thought to the threat the "new policy" presents to the coalition of free nations carefully built up by the United States since 1948. The troubles of the satellites have tended to accelerate the growing disaffection of Western Europe for the present system for the defense of the West. If the Iron Curtain countries make attractive trade offers to Western Europe, a complete revision of U. S. policy in Europe may be necessary.

The National Bureau of Standards

Olin J. Eggen

THE HIGHEST COURT of Government science is the National Bureau of Standards. To question its competence is almost like accusing the director of the Mint of taking home samples. In the fifty-two years since its establishment the bureau has built up a reputation for achievement and accuracy that is rivaled only by that of the FBI and the U. S. Supreme Court. For this reason many Americans were shocked when on March 31 it was announced that Allen V. Astin, director of the bureau had been fired by Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks for not being "sufficiently objective" in carrying out his duties.

WORK OF THE BUREAU

The National Bureau of Standards—or NBS as it is called in abbreviation-conscious Washington—is in a real sense a people's laboratory. It is the research and development department for the world's largest business, the U. S. Government. The need for its services can be seen behind nearly every item in your daily newspaper. The Veteran's Administration undertakes to supply hearing aids to veterans; the specifications are drawn up by NBS, which also tests the finished products. The State Department needs new language-record reproducing systems for its Voice of America broadcasts; NBS designs them. A Constellation airplane crashes killing thirty-five people; NBS determines the cause of the accident for the Civil Aeronautics Board. The Atomic Energy Commission urgently requires improved timing equipment for its Yucca Flats nuclear tests; NBS supplies it. The White House is to be partially rebuilt; NBS supplies technical advice and tests the materials.

To aid the Census Bureau count noses, NBS operates two electronic brains. The bureau's radio experts continue to bounce radar echoes off the moon and at the same time are pushing their research on UHF—ultra high frequency—radio signals to be ready for the UHF television stations which will soon go into operation throughout the country.

The bureau's nuclear physicists have perfected an atomic clock which will ultimately replace the stars in the determination of time. The NBS electronic currency counter saves the Treasury Department over a quarter of a million dollars a year by automatically counting the \$5-million worth of wornout one-dollar bills returned to the Treasury every day. A new type of magnetic fluid clutch has been invented at the bureau which may soon appear in your automobile.

Projects carried out by the bureau in recent years have included investigation of methods of best pre-

The National Bureau of Standards was catapulted into the headlines by the controversy that arose over the dismissal of Dr. Allen V. Astin on March 31 from his post as Bureau Director (AM. 4/25, p. 93). Dr. Eggen eschews the Astin controversy and gives a sketch of the bureau's varied work and striking achievements. He lives and works on top of a mountain, being an astronomer at the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, Calif.

serving the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence for the Library of Congress; of static-electricity hazards in the operating rooms of Government hospitals; of the causes of the Texas City ammonium-nitrate explosion in April, 1947.

The performance of these services, and thousands of others like them, is carried out in addition to the bureau's chief duty—the maintenance of standards. We take it for granted that an inch in Maine is the same length as an inch in California, but this is true only because the distance between two scratches on a platinum bar in the bureau's vaults is the standard for all measuring devices manufactured in this country. Also, the accuracy of your grocer's scale is attested to by a seal which tells you that it has been calibrated against a standard platinum weight kept by the bureau. There are other standards which must be maintained besides those of length and weight. The electrical wiring in your home must meet certain specifications, the scales on thermometers must be uniform, and even light bulbs must come up to a standard. Out of 6.7 million light bulbs purchased by the Federal Government last year, the bureau life-tested a sample of 4,500.

During World War I the experience of the allied American and British armed forces showed that the lack of interchangeability of American and British screw threads was a serious problem. Standard U. S. equipment carrying threaded outlets would not fit the mating part on British planes, guns and tanks. The higher degree of mechanization during World War II made the problem even more serious than it had been in the first war. The large volume of war equipment supplied to the British by American industry had to be specially threaded to British specifications. This not only led to considerable delay but was economically disadvantageous to us, since the surplus was not usable in this country. At the same time, American military forces based in England found difficulties in making necessary replacements from British supplies. The over-all loss has been estimated at more than \$100 million.

On November 18, 1948, representatives from government and industry in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States met at the National Bureau of Standards and signed a declaration unifying the screw threads of those countries. Not only is this agreement of great military importance, but it will also smooth the way for more peacetime exchange of manufactured goods.

The bureau is accustomed to being called in for consultation on Government problems, but in October

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of 1939 it was handed an assignment that was destined to become the most significant in its history. President Roosevelt asked the director of the bureau to act upon a suggestion by Dr. Albert Einstein and explore the military possibilities of uranium fission. The problem grew to such a size that it was organized under a special head and termed the Manhattan Project. The results of this super-secret project are now well-known and mark a milestone in the bureau's progress.

THE BUREAU AT WAR

Not content with their part in the development of the A-bomb, the bureau's physicists perfected the second-greatest scientific achievement of World War II—the VZ fuse. The VZ, better known as the radio proximity fuse, is a remarkable weapon. It explodes its shell or bomb if it only comes near its target. The fuse is small enough to be covered by a man's hand, but it is a complete radio sending and receiving set. It picks up its own signal as it is reflected back from the target, and when this reflected signal becomes strong enough, the bomb is exploded.

Another new weapon developed at the bureau is a guided missile called the Bat. Live bats give out a short pulse of sound and guide themselves by the echo. The guided missile sends out shortwave electrical pulses and is directed to the target by radar echoes. The Bat can follow the target at night, in fog or above clouds. It was used by the Navy to destroy many tons of Japanese shipping during the last year of the war.

The full story of the bureau's work in the field of military weapons and atomic research cannot be told now, for much of this activity is still clothed in secrecy. A special building is nearing completion on a 220-acre tract near Boulder, Colo., to house some secret projects, which include a prediction service for radio blackouts due to atmospheric conditions, continuing improvement of the proximity fuse, work on chemical properties of atomic-energy materials and on problems related to protection of personnel from radiation and continued development of special guided missiles for the Navy, following the pioneer lines opened up by the Bat.

One foggy day in 1931 a bureau scientist took off from the NBS airfield in College Park, Md., and, with only radio to guide him, landed smoothly in a dense fog at the Newark, N. J., airport. This was one of the first successful attempts at radio-guided, blind landing. Some features of the system used are incorporated in the blind-landing devices used at most airfields today. The bureau has also contributed to aeronautics through the design and development of radio ranges and radio beacons for safely guiding airplanes to airfields. The bureau's pioneer work on the soundproofing of aircraft has made possible your quiet ride in the modern airliner.

Since the bureau has custody of the nation's basic standards, it is natural that it should carry out a program of testing to determine if these standards are met. The testing activities are mainly directed toward ensuring that materials purchased by the Federal

Government conform to contract specifications. The results save many millions of the taxpayers dollars. During 1952 over 300,000 such tests were made. Many tests, on such items as gasoline-saving devices, gasoline "dopes," automobile radiator antifreeze and antileak compounds, were run for the Post Office Department and the Federal Trade Commission in order to determine the validity of advertised claims.

Among the products tested last year was a white powder called AD-X2, belonging to a class of preparations called battery additives. The makers claim that these products prolong the life of automobile batteries when added to the battery water. The bureau has tested over 2,500 of these battery "dopes" and in a pamphlet distributed through the Better Business Bureau has condemned all of them as worthless. It made a similar finding on AD-X2. But the manufacturer fought back and, through the Senate Small Business Committee, had his battery additive tested by a group of scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The MIT tests were said to show that the powder was actually better than advertised. It was the bureau's adverse finding on AD-X2 that was the immediate occasion of Dr. Astin's dismissal.

PAST DIRECTORS

Dr. Astin is the fifth director of the bureau and, as did most of his predecessors, he came up through the ranks. After joining the bureau in 1932, he won wartime recognition for his work on the proximity fuse and was made director in October of 1951. His dismissal this year sets a record for short-time administration of the bureau.

The first director was Dr. S. W. Stratton, who served from 1901 to 1923. A comparison of the first appropriation with the present budget shows clearly the rapid growth of the bureau in the first fifty years of its existence. In 1901, \$27,000 was provided for salaries and \$10,000 for equipment. In addition, \$250,000 was authorized for constructing a laboratory and \$25,000 for the purchase of the first eight acres of the present site. The total funds appropriated by Congress for NBS use in 1952 was \$8.6 million, a thirtyfold increase, but still less than the amount saved each year through the bureau's constant checking on Government purchases and its other testing activities.

Dr. Stratton resigned in 1923 to become President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was replaced by Dr. G. K. Burgess, who had been a member of the bureau staff since 1903. The Secretary of Commerce was then Herbert Hoover, who believed in the value of scientific research. He effectively supported the NBS work. It was a golden era for the bureau, and there was great activity and expansion. Dr. Burgess died at his desk in 1932 and was succeeded by Dr. Lyman Briggs, who had joined the bureau during World War I.

Dr. Briggs inherited NBS in the depths of the depression. His first official act was to drop more than a third of the bureau's staff for lack of funds. It was a

bitter experience, but the bureau carried on, and in 1937, when we began to prepare our national defences, the NBS staff of experienced physicists, chemists, metallurgists and engineers was called upon by the armed services to direct work on many projects, particularly in the development of new weapons.

Dr. Briggs retired in 1945 and was succeeded by Dr. E. U. Condon, who directed the bureau's activities until replaced by Dr. Astin in 1951.

The National Bureau of Standards may well be proud of its accomplishments, but it is too busy to take any bows. It has earned the title of the world's largest and most versatile laboratory. Its Washington, D.C., home, which has grown from eight to seventy-two acres, houses such diverse equipment as a 50-million-volt betatron and a 180-million-volt synchrotron, cement-testing machines, wind tunnels, model dams, radar antennae and almost any other piece of scientific apparatus imaginable.

Americans can be both proud and thankful that the National Bureau of Standards is their laboratory. Science and technology are among the pioneer frontiers for the nation. The bureau has the plant, facilities, and staff needed for an efficient and prompt attack on these frontiers.

Industrial security: an unguarded front

John L. Kent

AFTER A LAPSE of more than five years, Congress is taking another look at our industrial security—the safety of our plants from activities of spies and saboteurs.

Indirectly, industrial security affects everyone, not merely the plant owners and operators. And many people are concerned about it. The present "look-see" of Congress was stimulated by letters from constituents.

Industrial security includes a personal phase—protection against saboteurs and spies, and a physical one—locks, fences, guards and sequestered working rooms. In both phases, industry efforts are extremely spotty, ranging from complete disregard of security to detailed checks of employees and use of counterspies to check on subversives and enemy spies. The physical phase seems to be under better control than the personal. Sabotage and espionage are still grossly misunderstood, some observers say.

Plants holding confidential and higher-rated military contracts have some protection through a compulsory

Mr. Kent, of Washington, D.C., has for ten years been writing on developments in science and industry.

Federal Bureau of Investigation check of employees and through compliance with regulations that are part of their contracts. But in other plants, industrial security precautions are optional with management.

Government officials say that industry has failed to realize the menace of the secret Communist in industry. Businessmen have tended to minimize the danger. Thus, so far as industrial security is concerned, the country is not ready to defend itself properly.

Any future attack on the United States will be accompanied by attempts at industrial sabotage, Municions Board officials said. The board was the Defense Department agency which was charged with coordinating efforts in this field, at least as far as the military aspects of it go.

The potential saboteur or espionage agent is generally a Communist, though disgruntled employees may engage in sporadic sabotage. The disgruntled employee is no serious problem. His activities and grumbling soon mark him and set him apart. Other employees are aware of his existence. But trained saboteurs are extremely hard to spot. With modern techniques, many sabotage tricks today can be made to appear like pure accidents or normal breakdowns. The old-type sabotage (emery powder in bearings, slow-burning fuses, etc.) went out of style before World War II.

Karl Baarslag, research director for the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion and a recognized authority on Communist activity, pointed out that the Communist type of subversive enjoys enormous advantages over his Nazi predecessors. The latter never had any chance to establish a solid base in American industry. The Communists have been boring in for over thirty years, and those of American origin have by this time "blended" perfectly into their surroundings. They are often the most trusted employees, with years of service in a company.

SABOTAGE, NEW STYLE

Sabotage, like psychological warfare and warfare in general, has gone modern, and new methods have emerged during the past twenty years. Old-line saboteurs aimed at crippling or wrecking the physical plant or machinery. Communists specialize in crippling and destroying human morale and loyalty. Under the guise of pulling justifiable economic strikes or slowdowns for legitimate workers' demands, secret Communists can achieve what they call "political" objectives. The latter type of sabotage is obviously far harder to detect and expose.

Communist subversives have for the past thirty years been infiltrating into the strategic areas of industry—heavy industry, transportation and communications. During numerous strikes they had many a chance to try out and perfect their methods.

As far back as 1937, Communist leaders in a telegraph strike indiscreetly admitted to a few of their union members that the real purpose of the strike was twofold. One was to "test the militancy of the workers"—i.e., to discover and develop real militants. The

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second was to probe for weak spots in the key relay and transfer points in the telegraph network. Strikes at these points would tie up the whole country or large sections of it.

The Government hasn't been too helpful. Those companies which do feel concerned about hiring bad security risks and Communist moral saboteurs find the files of the FBI closed to them, unless they have contracts involving secret Government work.

MAKESHIFT SECURITY CHECKS

Looking for an alternative solution, they find industrial security a little-developed field and one with serious gaps in basic information. Mr. Baarslag says that industry has never set up any large master files or indices on subversives where questionable security risks could be name-checked at the time of hiring.

In desperation, some industrialists have turned for help to the various credit-rating agencies. These agencies, lacking any files on subversives or facilities for compiling such files, have been forced to resort to direct phone calls to the individuals concerned to ask them point-blank whether they were ever Communist party members or connected with Communist-front organizations. This strikes Baarslag as preposterous. Yet, it is being done for many big firms by a number of mercantile agencies.

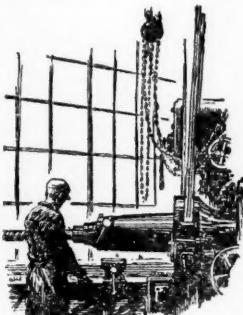
Better business bureaus and various retail credit agencies carry information on literally hundreds of thousands of small-time grifters, con men, gyps and swindlers, but industry has never had the foresight to set up a national master index or files listing known Communists, saboteurs and industrial wreckers. Mr. Baarslag feels that this is serious.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST

Some Congressmen feel the same way. Seven of them got a briefing from Munitions Board officials last January 29 on Government efforts in this field. Headed by Rep. William (Bill) Lantaff, Democrat of Florida, the delegation included three Republicans — Reps. Charles H. Brownson (Ind.), Thomas B. Curtis (Mo.) and William H. Ayres (Ohio)—and three Democrats—Reps. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. (N. Y.), Kenneth A. Roberts (Ala.) and Ray J. Madden (Ind.).

Mr. Lantaff requested the briefing after he received letters from his constituents questioning the apparent lack of protection at hydroelectric installations and in large industrial establishments. The Congressman says his concern over industrial security transcends the interests of his own district—Collier, Dade and Monroe counties and not-too-heavily industrialized Miami.

He is serving his second term in Congress. He is 38 and a World War II veteran, having served as a lieutenant colonel in the military intelligence division of the War Department General Staff. Parenthetically, it may be noted that Karl Baarslag is a World War II naval intelligence officer.



In requesting the briefing, Mr. Lantaff wrote the Munitions Board chairman that Congress

has been primarily concerned over the defense of the industrial potential of Western Europe and other strategic areas of the world, so that we have given little thought to the fact that our own industrial facilities would be a prime target for our enemies.

He feels that we should pay more attention to our industrial security and let the Communists here and abroad know it. This would be a "show of strength." "The weaker we are, the more chance there is that they will want to run the risk of a war," he says. The Soviets have under their control greater masses of manpower. It is our industrial potential that makes us equal to them. Soviet aims now are to offset our industrial power, either by building up their own or tearing down ours. Sabotage and espionage are the two major destructive forces that the Soviets can turn against our industry.

The private briefing apparently gave Mr. Lantaff and the other Congressmen the answers they sought—what Federal laws are involved, what the problems are and what new legislation, if any, is needed.

Interest in industrial security has been building up during the past year. The congressional briefing is just one indication. Apprised of inquisitive stirring on the part of Congress, President Truman, by an executive order signed on December 31, centralized policy functions in this field in the chairman of the National Security Resources Board.

Under the order, which will probably remain in force until Congress completes its review of the whole problem, the NSRB chairman is to prescribe policies and programs governing the activities of Federal agencies with respect to the physical security of Government-owned and private facilities. Work of the present Industrial Evaluation Board (Department of Commerce) and the interdepartmental Facilities Protection Board is to be supervised by the chairman.

The Evaluation Board designates which plants are critical from the national defense standpoint and rates them according to relative importance. The Protection Board becomes advisory to the NSRB chairman to help him carry out his responsibilities.

The executive order does not affect the operations of the Atomic Energy Commission or the Defense Department. AEC has its own policies, and the Defense Department operates through its Munitions Board's Office of Industrial Security.

As a result of the present congressional interest, a special committee may be set up and hearings held. These hearings, which will doubtless bring up the many unexplained "accidental" industrial explosions, factory "incidents," etc. may focus attention on the need for some central authority and files for keeping tab on industrial saboteurs.

The Voltaire myth

Louis F. Doyle

"... although, God knows, the proposition was stated by Voltaire in language as plain and expressive as language can possibly be: 'I disapprove of what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it.' (Quoted in *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, "Mirror of Opinion," Feb. 15, 1953, from an address by Sevillon L. Brown, editor of Providence, R. I., *Bulletin*, delivered at the Univ. of Michigan).

The liberal editors and writers who have not availed themselves of the above dictum during the past fifteen years must be very few. One meets it at every turn. And always the trenchancy and the impact of it is supposed to lie in the fact that Voltaire said it. *But Voltaire did not say it nor anything approximating it.* Its first appearance was in a book entitled *The Friends of Voltaire*, by "S. G. Tallentyre," who was one A. Beatrice Hall, an Englishwoman. It was published in 1907. The phrasing was not heroic enough for Will Durant. In *The Story of Philosophy* (1926), it was upped to "I disagree with everything you say but I will die in defense of your right to say it." However, the Hall version proved heroic enough for most quoters.

In preparing the 1937 edition of the *Quotations*, Bartlett assigned one Harry Weinberger the task of combing Voltaire's complete works for the original source of the thing. The nearest to it Mr. Weinberger found was, "Think for yourselves and let others enjoy the privilege to do so too." This occurred in the *Treatise on Tolerance*, addressed to Helvetius, the Encyclopedist. If this is not the innocuous statement that Miss Hall transformed and immortalized, it is as likely as any other in the *Oeuvres*.

The second Voltairism known to all is "*Ecrasez l'Infame!*" For obvious reasons, this is no longer current outside the Iron Curtain. In fact, Bartlett follows it, piously, with "[superstition?]."] *L'Infame* that was to be annihilated was, of course, Christianity, especially the Catholic Church. The third is the concluding line of *Candide*, which is to the general effect that "we must cultivate our garden." The wisdom of this remark is so great that it has never been expounded. But "Carry on" might be a rough and ready equivalent. Voltaire's other works, those elaborate heroic poems and classical tragedies which were to have based his fame, are now museum pieces, seldom visited even by learned French. In short, Voltaire's most famous line was written by an obscure Englishwoman more than two centuries after his death and has been echoed endlessly by persons who never read Voltaire.

The Voltaire myth seems really indestructible. He built the myth himself during his own long lifetime,

LITERATURE AND ARTS

patiently and persistently, and he built well. Until the publication of his *Correspondence*, long after his death, it was the *salon Voltaire*, the self-drawn Voltaire, that held the stage—the lover of truth, the foe of tyrants, the friend of the people.

Nor did the *Correspondence*, though it altered the picture considerably, shatter the spell. As noted by Kathleen O'Flaherty in the preface to *Voltaire, Myth and Reality*, a jointly sponsored British and French broadcast from Paris in 1944 on the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his birth proclaimed him the indicated prophet of the hour and of the future in a wartorn world. Every wind then blowing was favorable to him. Had he not spoken well of English institutions? He had—and rescinded much of it later. Had he not been kicked out by Prussian Frederick? He had, for understandable reasons—and had he not crept back into favor later? Had not Voltaire been the champion of the people? He had—if such references to them in private letters to the "hated" aristocrats, as "stupid and barbarous," "oxen," "monkeys," "to be guided, not educated" are not given too much weight. Had he not been, like Jefferson and Franklin, a Deist, a man of reason? He had—and had then built a church to prove that he was one of the simple faithful.

He had been all things to all men, though hardly in the Pauline tradition. But in 1944 a magical symbol was needed and a synthetic Voltaire would do nicely. After all, as we now know, the value of a myth lies not in its truth, but in its efficacy. So François Marie Arouet, the notary's son in a society that despised notaries' sons, alias Voltaire, self-styled "Count of Flounoy," became the patron and refuge of every hard-pressed editor and drafted public speaker, all of whom, somehow, hit on the same deathless *mot*—from Miss Hall. All of which has nothing to do, of course, with the essential truth of the principle of freedom of expression.

The revelations of the *Correspondence* have been an embarrassment to the promoters of his apotheosis, but not an insuperable obstacle. In 1936, *Voltaire*, by Alfred Noyes, so ignored, condoned or explained away the more sinister Voltaire that it was censored by the

Fr. Doyle, S.J., is professor of English at St. Louis University.

Holy Office: not to be republished until specified corrections had been made. Scurrilities, such as those in *La Pucelle* (Jeanne d'Arc), Mr. Noyes dismissed as "amusing"—"smoking-room stories." In 1938, with the approval of the diocesan authorities at Westminster, the book was reissued with no change except for a preface by the author in which he disclaimed holding any heretical opinions.

In *Two Cheers for Democracy*, by E. M. Forester, there is a highly whimsical account of the writer's visit to Ferney. "We saw with delight that the lettering of the VOLTAIRE [in the inscription over the church door] was twice the size of the Deity's." Whatever point that may have lies buried deep in the Forester philosophy. But not so the following; it is pointed enough. "Oh, but that is not the whole story," saith the *spirit of dullness*, looking up from his ledger; "he was also capricious, shifty, cruel, litigious, indecent, a panicky capitalist; I have it all down" (emphasis added). This neatly maneuvers anti-Voltaireans into the camp of the Communists. This is highly characteristic of the strategy of Voltaire's apologists: to line up a few selected quirks and minor failings as the whole case against the idol.

Was it merely shifty of Voltaire to circulate a large mass of libelous and scandalous matter, then publicly to disavow authorship—or was it character assassination and blasphemy? Was it mere cruelty to flatter those who oppressed the populace he professed to defend—or was it simian cowardice? It would be quite easy—and quite futile—to make out a case of *Voltaire vs. the People* that could not be dismissed by Mr. Forester's airy gesture.

He had a few good deeds to his credit, and Heaven knows they were not hidden. He extricated some unfortunate persons from the toils of legal injustice, though he was no Emile Zola. He supported a houseful of dependents and relatives at Ferney, to whom he was kind, including a niece of Corneille. But that scale of the balance has been so heavily loaded by his admirers that to neglect it here is no great injustice.

For always, with Voltaire, the action is one thing, the motive another. For instance, the building of the church at Ferney was pure malice and subterfuge. What simple soul, after that, would believe that the Count of Flounoy did not believe in God? And who could say, after the legal rescues, that he did not love the people whom he privately alluded to as scum?

The point about the Voltaire worship is that it is utterly irrational. He has become a symbol, a symbol for all that he was not, and who questions a symbol? Who seriously investigates the origin of a symbol? Only Mr. Forester's "spirit of dullness." Besides, he was a genius, and we have never completely recovered from the Romantic idolatry of genius as a thing above all law and all criticism.

Voltaire was probably the greatest master of classical prose (and is there any better prose?) that ever

lived. Swift might be his equal. And no other man ever had his gift for ridicule. If a person or thing had one, small vulnerable spot, he would find it. If, in a rare case, it was not there, he would remold the man or the thing to his purpose. He had only one great failure, a monumental failure. That was the Catholic Church. No one has ever *successfully* made the Church the object of laughter, not even Voltaire. He made a churchman here or there look foolish, but not the Church. Voltaire emptied his whole arsenal at the Church—and then began to scream.

In these days of crisis, when it is no longer fashionable to sneer at any form of religion, the more ardent Voltaireans hasten to acquit him of any frontal attack on Christianity or the Church as such. No, he was only against certain abuses of power. Well, in that case, the Revolutionaries, while his memory was still green, sadly misinterpreted the master, for their zeal

was far from merely reformatory. They took him literally enough.

Once it is perceived that through all the labyrinthine ways of his long career, the north star of Voltaire was self-interest, it is interesting to speculate where his stand would be in this modern world if he could return to it.

Since he held that "God is on the side of the big battalions," he would duly weigh Stalin's divisions and perhaps underestimate the Western world. In his own day he had a very low opinion of democracy; so he might find it hard to adjust himself to the fact that the richest and strongest nation of history is the United States.

But he was supple at adjustment. He would almost certainly set up the world's most "liberal" newspaper and nail to its masthead Miss Hall's death-defying sentence—without acknowledgment. Or he might prefer Mr. Durant's improved version. If he followed his traditional strategy, he would attack himself anonymously and defend himself vigorously against imaginary foes.

He would need to inform himself thoroughly, however, on the libel law, and that might cramp his style considerably. Libel is not the easy matter it was in eighteenth-century France. But innuendo has been brought to high perfection. He would deplore McCarthyism, needle McCarranism, denounce communism, even while sharply criticizing the House Committee on Un-American Activities. He would thunder against big Government spending but support any public project whatever that called for more spending. He would denounce confiscatory taxation and then ask why the country was not in a better state of defense. His hopes for Tito would be high, but Franco would get short shrift, as would certain Latin-American republics.

He would offer to die daily for civil rights. And yet, somehow, an overproportion of petty crimes reported in his *Gonfalon* would be by Negroes, always identified as Negroes. No story of a molestation of a Negro



woman by a white man would ever sully his sheet; it would either just never happen or it would not be newsworthy. Nor would a discouraging word ever be heard in connection with a really big advertiser, say, a department store. He would be a strong free-enterprise man. In a word, Voltaire would conduct one of our "better newspapers."

To return to the editor of the *Bulletin* and his "... although, God knows, the proposition was stated by Voltaire ..." The implication, one gathers, is that,

had the "proposition" been stated by any other sage in history, it might have been subject to question. But not so when it's Voltaire. The freedom-loving speaker, confronted by all those young faces suffused with the love of liberty, complacent in the assurance that the thundering against illiberal obtuseness is not directed at them, and then a small, monkey-faced wraith in the background bowing sardonically to a very angry Miss Hall. Hogarth might have made something interesting of all that.

Cold war: fact vs. fiction

RUSSIA: WHAT NEXT?

By Isaac Deutscher. Oxford University Press. 230p. \$3

In this book Mr. Deutscher advances one of the strongest pleas for the appeasement of the Soviet Union which has appeared in a long time. According to him, recent actions of the Soviet Government, such as amnesty, disclosures in connection with the doctors' plot, and the present peace offensive represent, in reality, "reforms" and the "regeneration" of the Soviet system, which is gradually returning to "the humane Socialist spirit" and the "proletarian democracy" of the early days of the Soviet State under Lenin.

In this revived form, Mr. Deutscher further holds, Leninism would lack only its original international character, since Stalin's self-containment, or socialism in one country, is still the guiding principle of Soviet policy. In this connection Deutscher claims that postwar Soviet expansion was contrary to Stalin's original intentions, and was due to circumstances beyond his control, such as "the jockeying for position among allies turning rapidly into potential enemies." Therefore, he concludes, coexistence between West and East is both possible and desirable. He warns that the rejection of the present Soviet peace offensive may lead to the appearance of a Russian Bonaparte who "would disperse the party secretaries and ride in blood and glory to the English Channel."

These assertions, which are basic for Mr. Deutscher's thesis, are contradicted by trustworthy evidence, as well as by the patterns of Communist strategy observed in the past. It is a matter of record that Lenin's policy from the beginning of the Soviet regime was as barbarous and inhuman as that of Stalin. Within two months after he had grasped power, Lenin's dreaded Cheka (secret police) was organized and almost immediately put into action. By the autumn of 1918 many persons had perished as its victims.

What Mr. Deutscher calls "reforms" have all the earmarks of the situation which Stalin himself described as a temporary retreat to recuperate after the "offensive of the party had gone too far ahead and ran the risk of being cut off from its base." A number of examples of such tactical party retreats could be pointed out, both before and after the Bolsheviks seized power.

Mr. Deutscher has also misinterpreted the main features of the Soviet system. Thus, he evinces great admiration for Soviet planning, forgetting to mention its special character, stressed by such leading pro-Communist economists as Oscar Lange, namely, that it serves "political and military objectives to which all other aspects of economic planning were sacrificed."

In my opinion, there is the danger that a reader may be misled by this book unless he is prepared to check the author's statements against other sources of information.

NIKITA D. ROOKOWSKY

TRUTH IS OUR WEAPON

By Edward W. Barrett. Funk & Wagnalls. 355p. \$4

The Voice of America, indeed our entire philosophy of the "campaign of truth" abroad, is passing through a critical phase these days. The present discussion of our propaganda program and its objectives, by the former Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, could not come at a better moment.

Mr. Barrett makes his own the views expressed by both Presidents Eisenhower and Truman to the effect that "we cannot hope to win the cold war unless we win the minds of men." But this book is more than an apologia for the writer's official career. He has supplied valuable testimony on how best to win this campaign by his account of the Voice's history and prehistory and of the practical problems that must be met in the near future if its objectives are to be achieved.

Of special interest to readers of this Review is the author's estimate of the place of religion in such a program.

BOOKS

The Soviet Union, for all its apparent solidity, has chinks in its armor which must be discovered and widened. These include the unpopularity of the regime among the masses, internal jealousies of the Communist ruling clique itself, economic weaknesses, the bad example of Titoism and the power of religion. As long as religious faith lives, writes Mr. Barrett, it threatens the regime. And it still lives, inside as well as outside of Russia.

"Great efforts," he writes, "to keep alive and encourage religious faith within the Soviet empire will be in order." He suggests, as a practical step, setting aside one day when all religious-minded people will offer prayers for the enslaved peoples. These services could be reported in broadcasts and summarized in balloon-dropped leaflets. The impact, he is convinced, could be great on both sides of the curtain.

One of the most convincing arguments for the value of our broadcasting efforts behind the Iron Curtain is the frantic, even extreme efforts employed to prevent our programs from reaching the people. This is one aspect of Soviet activities which is not, as so often in this domain, a matter of conjecture or estimate. By late 1950 the Soviets had two hundred long-range and at least one thousand local jammers in action.

This reflects an extraordinary preoccupation of the Communists with the damage the "campaign of truth" can do within their borders. It alone would justify the money spent on the Voice's Eastern European broadcasts. These are the kind of things on which the Voice should be judged, not the crackpot proposals to put Arthur Godfrey at the head of the program or to distribute two million red-white-and-blue yo-yos in France.

Obviously Mr. Barrett does not share the fears of some of his former colleagues that such religious projects

might violate some American traditions. He displays a proper discretion in a field that has its hazards for any public official. But his enthusiasm for the 1952 "Mecca Airlift" reflects the realization that on some occasions a slight gesture in the realm of religion can pay enormous dividends. This was the occasion on which the U. S. Air Force transported several thousands of Mecca-bound Moslem pilgrims stranded far from their objective while precious time was running out for them.

Although Government money was spent to enable these Arabs to perform their religious rites, no outcry was made in this country. On the contrary, there was general satisfaction at the spontaneous gratitude of the whole Moslem world. The Mecca episode illustrates that the successful conduct of a good-will campaign abroad must sometimes lead to the adoption of programs that at home would be disapproved.

ROBERT A. GRAHAM

Flawed crystal ball

FOREIGN POLICY WITHOUT FEAR

By Vera Micheles Dean. McGraw-Hill. 220p. \$3.75

Vera Micheles Dean has acquired the reputation of a foreign-affairs expert in some circles. They will be pleased with this slight volume, for its contents will be familiar to them. But neither the contents nor the style will enhance her reputation among non-fraternity readers. The reader is first made acquainted with some of the realities of world affairs ("soon or later the United States will have to rethink its attitudes towards communism as distinguished from Russia") and with what "our friends" think of Americans. These friends are not identified, but from their views I would say they were intellectual relatives of Aneurin Bevan.

Then the factors of American success are enumerated and explained: social mobility, faith in the experimental process, a high degree of freedom, a talent for organized effort. Then comes a section on how our traditional anti-colonialism has been arrested and how the United States has inherited the accumulated hatreds of imperialism in dependent areas and newly independent lands. Further, we are told what the challenge is in Europe and in Asia, where the terrible harm wrought by racism is strongly and rightly condemned.

Finally, the author rewrites the promises America must make to the world and enumerates the ingredients of a fearless foreign policy. It is significant that in the discussion of the

Korean problem the reader is not reminded that the UN is there to repel brutal aggression on the part of the North Koreans and Mao, with support of Soviet Russia.

The observations and suggestions of this volume are frequently faulty on the score of the basic assumption and many contradictions. The basic assumption is that the United States need not fear communism. I cannot understand how any one who has a deep and clear understanding of Marxian communism, be it linked with the power of Stalin, Malenkov, Tito or Mao, can avoid fear of it. The author appears surprised that Tito's "opponents still charge that Yugoslavia, in spite of such changes [various political and economic changes to make communism less bureaucratic and more humane], remains a police state." No one who knows that Tito is a professed Marxian should be surprised.

This assumption may account for some of the contradictions. The author chides the United States for being less intolerant of non-Nazi and non-Communist dictatorships than of nazism and communism (p. 71). That the United States should be more tolerant of Naguib than of Malenkov will appear to most Americans eminently reasonable. Even the author admits it a few pages later, when she argues for the necessity of dictatorial regimes under certain conditions. Again, the author condemns American attempts to change other peoples' institutions as the price of aid (pp. 139, 167), while she condemns our failure to exact internal reforms in return for aid to certain nations (pp. 124-125). Personally I am irritated by such contradictions, as I also am by a style that permits a page and half (pp. 108-109) of uninterrupted questions.

WILLIAM L. LUCEY

NIKITA D. ROOKOWSKY is a member of the faculty of the Institute of Contemporary Russian Studies at Fordham.

REV. WILLIAM L. LUCEY, S.J., is professor of American history and librarian of the Dinand Library at Holy Cross College.

For the Religious Shelf

THE HIDDEN STREAM, by Ronald A. Knox (Sheed & Ward. \$3). This is a collection of conferences which during the past sixteen years Msgr. Knox has delivered to Catholic undergraduates at Oxford as part of the apologetics course. Not a complete treatise, it contains many fresh insights into fundamental religious questions. Most of

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the usual subjects are treated in an unusual way. The book is best suited, in the opinion of Rev. F. A. Harkins, S.J., for people who have taken a formal course in apologetics and now wish to sharpen their ideas and make them more actual.

TEACHING THE CHRISTIAN VIRTUES, by William H. Russell (Bruce, \$2.75). The method of teaching employed in seminaries is not suitable for the instruction of the ordinary layman. The average priest must find a method which is more concrete. This book outlines a Christocentric mode of instruction. Much emphasis is given to the dynamic figure of Christ. While praising the objective and general content of the book, Rev. George A. Kelly notes many defects: "Russell's source material runs from the sublime of Sacred Scripture to the ridiculous of *Good Housekeeping* magazine; his introduction could be rewritten better to clarify his purposes and methods; his chapters could stand some subheadings; many chapters are filled with trivia; the printing job is poor and unattractive; there are too many chapters."

MY ROAD TO CERTAINTY, by William C. Kieran (David McKay, \$3). An Episcopalian minister for twenty-six years, a very active lecturer on social questions, Mr. Kieran explains his conversion to the Catholic religion. Mary Dunn thinks his book will help his friends and many others "to think as logically and see truth as clearly as he did with the help of the Holy Ghost and the Blessed Mother."

SO MUCH, SO SOON, by Katherine Burton (Benziger, \$3.50). The well-known writer of Catholic biographies tells the story of Fr. Louis Brison, nineteenth-century founder of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. The present results of his labors, connecting him with our country and our times, are described by Archbishop John F. O'Hara of Philadelphia and Oblate Superiors. A holy and zealous man, Fr. Brison enjoyed working with tools and chemicals. Rev. Francis L. Filas, S.J., suggests that if he does obtain the honors of the altar—his cause of beatification has been introduced at Rome—"he will be an ideal patron for husbands whose toolshop interests compete with the comforts of the parlor and TV ball games."

SAINTS WESTWARD, by Donald Attwater (Kenedy, \$2.50). This is a series of simply written and neatly compressed sketches of some of the colorful and heroic people who planted and spread the faith in the Western Hemisphere. Mr. Attwater avoids

every trace of pious exaggeration and seems to anticipate the wonderings of the average reader about the grim austerities and the sometimes mistaken zeal of several of his subjects. The author's prudent comments on these difficult points are, in the judgment of Rev. Francis L. Filas, S.J., among the best features of the book. It is very suitable for refectory reading.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: The Mystical Body of Christ, by Luis Colomer, O.F.M., translated by Palmer Rockey (St. Anthony Guild, \$3.50). Here, in the first of two volumes on the Church, a well-known Spanish theological writer expounds the doctrine of the Church as the mystical body of Christ. He treats of the vital activity and growth of the divine organism of the Church. In the light of its subject, Rev. William Read, S.J., says that two virtues of Fr. Colomer's volume are worthy of note. The author never abandons the essential vein of revealed truth in pursuit of the fringes of the metaphor, and he illustrates that "what is given in one place in Scripture under a metaphor, elsewhere is expounded more expressly." With its frequent use of illustration and example (at times, a trifle diffuse), the book offers inspiring spiritual reading to anyone who nourishes his spiritual life frequently in reflective prayer.

ST. PETER CHRYSOLOGUS SELECTED SERMONS AND ST. VALERIAN HOMILIES, translated by G. D. Ganss (Fathers of the Church, \$4.50). The sermons and homilies of the Fathers are important not only for their content but for their method of teaching. The translator shows care and competence and gracious humor. Rev. Gerald Elard, S.J., calls this a "work well done, a rewarding book to buy."

FROM AN ABUNDANT SPRING, edited by the staff of the *Thomist* (Kenedy, \$7.50). This large memorial volume to the late Fr. Walter Farrell, O.P., is a deserving tribute to an outstanding writer, teacher and lecturer in the great Dominican tradition, in the estimate of Robert F. Harvanek. The twenty-six pieces in this collection, fifteen of them by Dominicans, cover a wide range of subjects. There are articles on the direct study of St. Thomas and Catholic education, on Mary and reparation to the Immaculate Heart, on philosophic and literary topics. Fr. Vann has a number of excellent reflections on the problems of a Catholic novelist. Sister Madeleva has a lyrical appreciation of the poetry of Merton. There is an article by Fr. Farrell himself on the thorny question of freedom of speech and censorship.

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THE WORD

"And this knavish steward was commended by his master for his prudence in what he had done" (Luke 16:1-9; Gospel for eighth Sunday after Pentecost).

The effortless rhetoric of Christ our Lord really does knock the spots out of the rhetoric of such expert practitioners as Demosthenes, Cicero and St. Paul. Unlike Demosthenes, our Saviour is never merely abusive; unlike Cicero, our Lord is never windy; unlike Paul, Christ is never actually obscure. When the Son of God is difficult to understand, as He is in the strange Gospel for the eighth Sunday after Pentecost, it is not because of any fogginess in either His thought or His expression. He is elusive simply because what He has to say is occasionally most surprising and unexpected.

We are not at all astonished, though we may be given pause, when Christ our Lord bids us behave like the Good Samaritan or the humble publican or the five wise virgins. But when He calmly orders us to follow the example of an extremely resourceful and unblushing swindler, we find it hard to conceal our rather shocked surprise. The Founder of Christianity sounds for a moment as if He were founding a protective association for indigent horse-players.

It is not a mere flippancy to suggest that the only way to read Christ correctly, at least in this present parable, is to read old Homer first. In more leisurely days, when a writer or a speaker used an illustrative story he interested himself not only in the illustration, but in the story. The author of the *Iliad* goes overboard on the Homeric simile because both he and his hearers *liked* the simile; but, when all is said, there is still only one point of comparison in the whole parallelism. Occasionally the Author of the Sermon on the Mount goes overboard (if we may say so) on a parable, presumably because both He and His hearers, like any normal human beings, enjoyed a good tale. Yet even so, our Saviour is only trying to make a single, simple point. It is the old story: when we misunderstand our Lord it is commonly because He is not sufficiently complex for our sophisticated tastes.

In the present Gospel Christ is not encouraging the act of embezzlement any more than in the story of the prodigal son He is recommending a

wild life for wealthy young men. Of course it will be objected that at least the prodigal came a cropper, whereas the crooked steward got away with his fancy transactions. But *did* the embezzler get away with his embezzlement? The story says nothing of the sort.

What the story does say is that the master (a very even-tempered man) *praised* the dishonest steward; but as soon as we ask, "For what?" we come to the only point and the whole meaning of the parable. The master praised his bailiff for his prudent, energetic foresight, and *only* for his prudent, energetic foresight. Our Saviour makes the point perfectly clear in His summary closing sentence: if only people would use, in their spiritual lives, the same intelligent and thoroughgoing procedures which they employ in their material lives; if only men would swiftly and shrewdly and energetically shape adequate means to spiritual ends as they do when they strive for more visible and tangible objectives; if, in a word, we would act toward a dogma as we act toward a dollar; then we might really get on with the only business transaction which, in the long run, will make any difference to any of us: the exchange of our mortal deeds for the deathless vision of God.

VINCENT P. McCORRY, S.J.

FILMS

THE BANDWAGON is a handsome, well-dressed Technicolor musical for adults, built around the dancing of Cyd Charisse and the astonishingly ageless Fred Astaire. In addition to its good looks and choreography, the picture contains a number of unexpected entertainment dividends. The most surprising of these is a script (by Adolph Green and Betty Comden) which is literate and funny and which affords its characters the luxury, rare in musicals, of behaving pretty much like human beings. The story is concerned with the staging of a Broadway musical by an aging theatrical wonder boy (Jack Buchanan) who is a cross between José Ferrer and Sir Lawrence Olivier. Genius or not, he insists on visualizing his production as a modernization of the Faust legend, which results in as pretentious a theatrical "turkey" as ever had to be completely revamped after its New Haven opening. Eventually the script's good-natured ribbing of creative egocentricity gets lost in a welter of production numbers. Before it does,

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ever, the picture gives a lively demonstration of the personal and professional clashes of the two stars, a classic ballerina (Miss Charisse) and a long-time movie hooper (Astaire), beautifully resolved in a series of stylishly executed duets. It also revives a tuneful collection of songs from old Broadway shows, some of them sung by Nanette Fabray, who, with Oscar Levant, gives the stars their most notable support. (MGM)

SCARED STIFF is the newest Martin and Lewis vehicle, a species of screen entertainment of which this observer freely confesses to being a very poor judge. Their last film, *The Stooge*, because of its simple and intelligible plot line, the pathos underlying much of its comedy and its respect for human values, seemed to me a vast improvement over the team's other pictures. Perfervid Martin-Lewis fans, however, appear to have resented its departure from sheer lunacy. Consequently, the pair's latest goes back to doing business at the same old stand. With very little attempt at rhyme or reason the plot has to do with gangsters, a damsel in distress (Elizabeth Scott) and a very thoroughly haunted Caribbean castle. From where I sat, most of the gags looked pretty tired and mechanical. Even so, they may be just what *family* fans of the series need to roll them in the aisles. (Paramount)

PICK-UP ON SOUTH STREET may have been inspired by the apocryphal story about the thief who returned a brief-case containing top secret material with a note saying: "I may be a crook but I'm a good patriotic American crook." In any event it is about a pickpocket (Richard Widmark) who lifts a wallet containing a vital strip of microfilm from a shady lady (Jean Peters), who in turn does not know that her current gentleman friend is using her as part of the Communist transmission belt. In the upshot, this set of cross-purposes not only establishes the essential patriotism of the pair but also makes what is, under the circumstances, an improbable case for the regenerative power of love. Along the way the picture involves the police and the FBI, in addition to its spies and underworld figures, in some standard chase melodramatics which depend rather heavily on brutality and sex and on a self-conscious use of picturesque and almost unintelligible underworld patois.

(20th Century-Fox)

HOUDINI is an embarrassingly inadequate Technicolor biography of the late, great magician and escape artist starring Tony Curtis, the bobby-

soxers' delight and his real-life wife, Janet Leigh. Curtis has mastered the surface mannerisms of a magician sufficiently well, and his re-enactment of Houdini's more spectacular stunts and escapes should be fun for the *family* to watch. Otherwise, except for the early sequences, where juvenile charm is an asset, the two performers give the effect of fairly talented students playing the leads in a high-school play about an historical figure.

(Paramount)
MOIRA WALSH

THEATRE

CASUAL MENTION. Since it is hardly likely that many readers of this column are as indigent as its writer, the chances are that most of them have either already departed from the hot city streets or are preparing to take flight. While this columnist has only a scant hope of escape from the heat and humidity of the city, except for a three-day rest in a Jesuit retreat house near the Catskills, his readers will be taking it easy in the vacation spots of their choice.

Wherever vacationers from these parts follow the sun, unless they wander westward of the seaboard States, they will be near a summer theatre. In some of the country playhouses—a minority, it must be feared—the management will make a sincere effort to present a repertory of adult plays, with a decent respect for the maturity of the audience and the status of drama as an art.

It would be nice if the 150 barn theatres in the coastal States included a number of projects under Catholic auspices, conveniently located among the dirt roads. Then the helmsman of this column could direct readers to the nearest theatre where they could find edifying drama, or entertainment not offensive to their consciences. Theatres under Catholic auspices, however, are few and far between.

Nevertheless, the eagle eye of your columnist has discovered two hot-weather theatres a Catholic can patronize without fear of running headlong into offensiveness.

The lucky people who are spending the summer, or any part of it, in southern Maryland or northern Virginia will find two interesting mid-summer productions at Catholic University Theatre in Washington. *The Lady Who Came to Stay* will open July 17 and run through July 25. From July 31 through August 8 the attraction will be *The Traitor*, by Herman

Wouk, author of *The Caine Mutiny*.

Up north in the Lake Champlain country, St. Michael's Playhouse is offering six weeks of delectable drama, from July 14 through August 29. The repertory for the season includes *Dear Ruth*, *The Importance of Being Ernest*, *Harvey*, *Years Ago*, *The Curious Savage* and *The Hasty Heart*. The theatre is in Winooski, a suburb of Burlington, Vt. Summer people in upper New York can reach it by ferry across the lake.

The Playhouse is one of the unique theatres of the nation. It presents an annual selection of plays that are mature without being highbrow, edifying without being stuffy. Occasionally it assumes the role of an experimental theatre without being "arty." It features no stars who lend their prestige to a country theatre while saving their better efforts for Broadway.

Players, Inc., the resident company for the past several years, rates comparison with such distinguished foreign acting groups as the Abbey and Gate players in Dublin and the Old Vic in London. No other summer theatre can make that claim.

THEOPHILUS LEWIS

PARADE

THE HEIGHTS OF MORAL grandeur—those Himalayas of the spirit—seemed to attract relatively few climbers intent on scaling the higher reaches . . . Mirrored in the news, the lofty summits showed no signs of traffic congestion . . . Far below, in the personality foothills, the many-headed multitude hustled about, producing behavior patterns that featured a wide assortment of deficiencies . . . Defects in family patterns were noticed . . . In Chicago, a wife testified her husband punched her for hiding his toupee while he was dressing for a date with another woman . . . Flaws in matrimonial designs assumed varied forms . . . In Detroit, a wife divorced her husband, a marriage counselor, because he went around with other women, one of them a marriage counsellor. Previous to the court action, the husband taught marriage courses in two large universities. After it, he set up as a marriage counselor in another city.

Steps to protect hosts from guests were taken . . . In Mexico City, the Supreme Court, alarmed by increasing reports that invited guests were walk-

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ing off with their hosts' dinner sets and silverware, decreed a heavier penalty for robbery by invited guests than for robbery by uninvited guests . . . Imperfections spawned in the personality foothills were confined to no one category . . . Anti-labor bias raised its head . . . In Oklahoma City, a father who spent all his waking hours watching television was brought into court for non-support of wife and children and ordered to start working . . . Movements against the public interest sprang up . . . In Dallas, Texas, five policemen were arrested for cooperating with an employee of a burglar-alarm firm in the looting of stores and warehouses . . . Kindness to animals went far; perhaps too far . . . In Arlington, Mass., a man left \$20,000 to a parrot . . . The thoughtless little inattentions that place a strain on matrimonial bliss were glimpsed . . . In Memphis, Tenn., a husband besought by his wife to liquidate his mustache, finally surrendered and shaved it off . . . For one whole week, she failed to notice that he was bare-faced.

Some of the week's deficiencies sprang more from human limitations than from malice . . . Slips between cups and lips were exemplified . . . In Neubuell, Germany, a doctor stepped into his car and headed for a ceremony wherein he was to receive a gold pin for driving fifty years without an accident. En route, he collided with a police vehicle and ended up in court . . . Problems of home life met the eye . . . In Chicago, a citizen sought and received a court order restraining the family in the apartment above his own from bouncing bowling balls on their floor . . . Judicial processes were stalled . . . In Angola, N. Y., a judge declared a mistrial after discovering that one of the jurors was deaf.

Climbing the Himalayas of the spirit is not just a sport one can engage in or not as he feels inclined . . . It is, on the contrary, a must . . . A man has to do some climbing if he is to save his soul—he must rise above the line of mortal sin . . . There is another consideration. The trouble with the world today is the people in it, and the trouble with the people in it is that not enough of them are climbing . . . If huge numbers of non-climbers would start climbing; if they would climb above the line of mortal sin; above the line of deliberate venial sin; and on and on, the world would soon be filled with better people . . . What an incomparably finer world this would be if more human beings, many more, were scaling the very heights of moral grandeur. JOHN A. TOOMEY.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Franco-American relations

EDITOR: One of our essential problems today is the maintenance of friendly relations between the United States and the other free nations of the world. This is of vital importance to us all. Hence the casual visitor to France is somewhat disturbed when he encounters evidence of a deep-seated and apparently quite widespread hostility to things American. As a Canadian visitor to France, people told me things which weigh heavily on their hearts but which they would probably hesitate to say directly to an American.

No good can come of too great reticence in this matter. It is a problem which should be brought out into the open and discussed. For there seems to be a serious lack of mutual understanding between the two peoples. Certainly the picture one gets of America in France, not only from the man in the street but from people of evident culture, is not the America which Canadians know and have learned to love and respect.

Strange to say, it is not so much the American tourist who is the source of the misunderstanding as the American soldier.

NEEDLESS DESTRUCTION

What are some of the French grievances? The first that one meets with is the matter of American bombing during the war. French people do not understand why the American forces felt it necessary to cause so much destruction in the process of liberating France. One hears stories of towns being bombarded, with a consequent loss of civilian life, merely because a small number of Germans had taken up positions in these towns. Frenchmen wonder why they were not bypassed, especially since the Germans, who were usually established in well-sheltered positions, were often unharmed by the bombs.

Then again, the American Air Force has the reputation of having been too thorough in its bombings and of having caused unnecessary destruction and loss of life. In this regard the Royal Air Force is said to have been more careful and more conservative.

Is the charge of recklessness unjustified? If so, one wonders whether sufficient effort has been made to set the record straight. Let us not forget that the Frenchmen were on the ground at the time and can only judge by external appearances, unless they

are told of the care and consideration that went into the planning and execution of these operations.

THROWING MONEY ABOUT

The second thing that one hears most about is money. Very soon one learns that in France a strict sense of economy and the careful use of money are considered almost cardinal virtues and that wastefulness of any sort is sternly frowned upon.

What might be considered generosity in the United States is looked upon as extravagance in France. The French may have been secretly envious of the highly paid American soldier, but they were both shocked and offended when he apparently showed no understanding of the value of the money he spent so liberally. Five hundred francs represents a certain amount of hard work in France. To offer it as a tip to a taxi-driver betrays a lack of both education and good breeding.

When an American offers to pay more than the regular price for a hotel room in France, he is considered to be breaking the rules of the game and is merely creating bad feeling. The hotel man looks upon him as a fool, and the French client who is turned away feels that the American is establishing a special privilege for himself to which he has no right.

One frequently hears the complaint that whenever the American Army sets up a military establishment in France, it literally takes over the surrounding district. "We no longer feel at home in our own country. They act like an army of occupation." This is what one hears. It is possible that French people are oversensitive on this point, but Army officials might be well advised to take note of the French reaction.

A final point is the judgments that one forms about France. France is an old civilization and a complex one. It is not always easy to understand. French people tell us that we do not try to understand, that we judge too quickly and superficially. One should beware of an oversimplification of France's problems. European problems do not lend themselves to simple solutions. When we see how little real understanding of American ways and American motives there appears to be, even amongst well-educated Frenchmen, we might learn a lesson in humility and question our own judgments about the French nation.

(Rev.) F. DEVINE, S.J.
Paris, France